Wireless Computing
FAQ

What is wireless?
Wireless Internet access uses radio frequency signals to exchange information between your computer and the Internet. No cables are required.

What do I need to do to connect to the internet?
You need to bring your wireless enabled laptop or PDA into the library and configure it to recognize our wireless system. Configuration of wireless adapters is detailed below.

If you are using Windows XP and have it configured to detect wireless networks automatically, you should get a notice in the system tray that will inform you that our network has been detected.

For information, please check with the manufacturer or supplier of your equipment. You are responsible for virus protection and other security configurations on your personal computer equipment.

Will I need any special settings or passwords to connect?
No, the library's patron wireless network is open to all visitors. However for your information, here are the access point particulars:

SSID: CPL
The channel is set to auto
It's in Infrastructure mode

You will need to connect to our SSID in order to use the internet.

No special encryption settings, user names or passwords are required.

We recommend that you keep your operating system updated, maintain virus protection, and disable file and print sharing where applicable.

Do I need special hardware?
Yes, your laptop or PDA needs to be equipped with an IEEE 802.11b or IEEE 802.11g compatible (Wi-Fi) wireless network card. In newer computers, these are

integrated (built-in); in older computers it may be a card that fits into a slot on the side of your laptop. On a PDA the wireless adapter should be integrated.

Your wireless adapter may detect the network automatically, or may need to be configured to "see" the wireless network at our library. Please refer to the instructions that came with your wireless card or your computer and change the configuration to the following:

SSID or "network name" – CPL

WEP – Disabled

Mode or Network Type – Infrastructure or Access Point

The following information is for your convenience.   Library staff cannot make changes to your equipment.

I have Windows XP on my laptop. How do I connect to the internet in the library?
1.   In Control Panel, open Network and Internet Connections, then open Network Connections. Right click on Local Area Connections, and choose Properties.
2.   Choose Internet Protocol, click Properties.
3.   Select the radio button that indicates Obtain an IP Address Automatically and the radio button that indicates Obtain DNS Server Address Automatically.
4.   For enhanced security, uncheck File and Print Sharing.
5.   Click OK and close all open windows.

I have Windows 2000 on my laptop. How do I connect to the internet in the library?
1.   In Control Panel, open Network and Dial-Up Connections, then open Network Connections. Right click on Local Area Connections, and choose Properties.
2. Choose Internet Protocol, click Properties.
3.   Select the radio button that indicates Obtain an IP Address Automatically and the radio button that indicates Obtain DNS Server Address Automatically.
4. For enhanced security, uncheck File and Print Sharing.
5. Click OK and close all open windows.

I have Windows 98 on my laptop. How do I connect to the internet in the library?
1.   In Control Panel, open Network. Right click on Network and choose Properties.

2.   Choose TCP/IP protocol, right click and select Properties.
3.   Select Obtain an IP Address Automatically.
4.   Select Obtain Disable DNS.
5.   For enhanced security, uncheck File and Print Sharing.
6.   Click OK and close all open windows.

I have a Macintosh laptop. How do I connect to the internet in the library?

OS 8 & 9
1.   Select Apple Menu, Control Panel, TCP/IP.
2.   Connect via Airport or other wireless (WiFi) Ethernet.
3.   Change configuration to Use DHCP Server.
4.   Leave Name Server and Additional Search Domains blank.
5.   Close all open windows.

OS X
1.   Select Apple Menu, Systems Preferences, Network.
2.   Choose TCP/IP tab and change configuration to Use DHCP.
3.   If necessary, configure to connect via Airport or other wireless (WiFi) Ethernet.
4.   Leave Domain Name Server and Search Domains blank.
5.   Close all open windows.

What wireless protocols does the network support?
Our network supports 802.11b and 802.11g wireless protocols.

I can't connect to the network. Can library staff help me?
Library staff can verify that the wireless network is functioning properly and provide this handout of configurations for various operating systems. Library staff are not permitted to make changes to your laptop or to adjust settings in any way.

The library is not able to provide technical assistance, and no guarantee can be provided that you will be able to make a wireless connection. The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or for laptop configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the Library's network.

My connection to the internet seems to have slowed down. What can I do?
Internet traffic sometimes slows due to general volume at different times of the day. Internal networks sometimes suffer from the same sorts of traffic jams.

If the wired computers are not experiencing slowness, it could be that too many wireless users are connecting to the access point. It could also mean that someone is downloading a file, or streaming media such as a news story, listening to music, playing a game, or watching a music video. All of these will slow down the connection.

Can I print from the wireless network?
No. At this time we do not offer printing on the wireless network. You may email the information that you want to print or save it to a disk or flash drive and print from home or from a wired computer in the library. Please note that in order to be printed out, the saved files must be in a format that can be opened by library computers. Currently, the Library has Microsoft Office XP or Office 2000 installed on all public computers.

Can I access library databases?
Library databases that are available from home are available on the wireless network. You will need to provide your library card number in order to use these databases on the wireless network, just as you would if you were accessing them from home.

While wireless computing is very convenient, some caution needs to be taken to ensure privacy and security.
Please keep the following in mind: the wireless network is not secured and is unfiltered. Information sent to or from your laptop/tablet/PDA can be intercepted by a third party.
Credit card and other financial transactions or any transmission of personal information such as a social security number is best done on a secured network in a non-public environment.